King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

Report of the Distribution Committee

ON

KING'S FUND RADIUM.

1. This Report continues the radium history of the King's Fund narrated in the earlier Reports, from the inception of the Radium Fund by Sir Otto Beit with a gift of £50,000 in November, 1928.

2. The following are the main stages in the development of the Fund's radium services :—

1929–1930.—Four grammes of radium purchased and distributed on loan among 20 Hospitals.

1930–1931.—With further sums received from the Thank-offering Fund and other sources an additional 6 grammes purchased. This made a total of 10 grammes distributed on loan among 24 Hospitals, of which 4 grammes was at one Hospital in the form of a 4-gramme unit for teleradium.

1931–1932.—The 4-gramme unit at Westminster Hospital, divided into four 1-gramme units, loaned to Westminster, Middlesex, Royal Cancer and University College Hospitals.

1935. Fund's radium withdrawn from seven Hospitals, and a Radium Pool established at the Middlesex Hospital for the use of these seven Hospitals, other Hospitals being admitted later.

1936–1937.—Purchase of a further 7 grammes of radium allocated to large units for the development of teleradium. The Fund's radium now totals 17 grammes (5 grammes in the form of small containers and 12 grammes in units of 1 to 4 grammes) available to 33 Hospitals, either by direct holdings or through the Fund's Radium Pool.

3. Since the last General Report on the Fund's radium made in May, 1936, the principal matters that have engaged the attention of the Radium Sub-Committee have been :—

A. Purchase of further supplies of radium and its allocation in large units.

B. Enlargement of the Fund's Radium Pool.

C. Follow-up of patients.

A. Purchase and Allocation of Radium.

4. The gifts received from a generous donor in 1935, 1936 and 1937 enabled the Fund to purchase an additional seven grammes of radium. This radium has been allocated to several Hospitals already holding the Fund's radium to enable them to develop teleradium, a method of Radium Therapy favoured by the present trend of medical opinion.

5. The seven grammes were allocated to the following Hospitals :—

Marie Curie	1 gramme
Middlesex	2 ,,
Royal Free	1 ,,
University College	1 ,,
Westminster	2 ,,

By combining the above allocations with the units already on loan from the Fund, Middlesex Hospital has installed a unit of four grammes and University College Hospital a unit of two grammes. Westminster Hospital, which already had a four-gramme unit, partly made up of the Fund's radium, has made use of their allocation to make up a two-gramme unit.

6. The Fund supplied the special apparatus necessary to use the new units at Middlesex and University College Hospitals, and these Hospitals transferred the Fund's apparatus for the one-gramme units previously used by them to Marie Curie and Royal Free Hospitals. Westminster Hospital were able to adapt for their new two-gramme unit an apparatus they already possessed and the Fund met the cost of this renovation. The new units came into operation during the latter half of 1937.

In addition to supplying these new units with apparatus, the Fund has also supplied a new apparatus of an improved type for the existing one-gramme unit at the Royal Cancer Hospital.

B. Development of the Fund's Radium Pool.

7. The Radium Pool has been considerably enlarged since its establishment in September, 1935, by the admission of more Hospitals and also by additions to its stock of radium. Ten other Hospitals have been admitted, making a total of seventeen participating

Hospitals. Of these additional Hospitals two hold for their exclusive use some of the Fund's radium, but from time to time they have need of more radium or of radium in a different type of container than their holding ; the other eight Hospitals have not previously had the use of the Fund's radium.

On the suggestion of the Fund, made to obtain the fullest possible use of the radium available, four of the new Hospitals agreed to lend to the Pool small quantities of radium owned by them. At the same time St. George's Hospital, one of the original participants in the Pool, transferred to the Pool on loan a quantity of their own radium. These loans increased the stock of radium in the Pool by 350 mgms. ; in addition, the Fund allocated a further 200 mgms., bringing the total quantity of radium in the Pool up to just over 1 gramme.

8. Towards the end of 1937, the Fund was informed that the increasing activities of the Pool would render it necessary to provide greater protection for the Pool personnel against the action of radium during conveyance to the participating Hospitals.

The Fund decided that the journeys should be made by a car specially equipped to carry radium ; a small car was accordingly purchased and, after being fitted with a heavy lead box in which to store the radium during conveyance, it was brought into use in January of this year.

9. Professor Russ, who directs the Radium Pool on behalf of the Fund, has reported that the participating Hospitals are making good use of the Pool facilities, and that the purchase of the car has not only provided the personnel with the protection required, but has also ensured more punctual deliveries of the radium.

C. Follow-up of Patients.

10. In the last Report it was stated that the follow-up cards of some Hospitals were deficient in the data they recorded, indicating an inadequate follow-up system, and that the Fund had taken steps to secure greater attention to this very important matter. A gradual improvement has been taking place, but the Fund is continuing to impress on the Hospitals the great importance of this subject.

D. Present Distribution of the Fund's Radium.

11. In 1936, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, finding that their own radium was sufficient to meet their needs, returned the Fund's loan of 450 mgms. With this radium the Fund

made allocations to two Hospitals not holding the Fund's radium, namely, 250 mgms. to King's College Hospital and 65 mgms. to Croydon Hospital; 100 mgms. was added to the Radium Pool.

12. As a result of the foregoing redistribution and of the purchases mentioned above, 33 Hospitals have the use of the Fund's radium, 18 having separate holdings for their exclusive use and 15 having the use only of the Pool radium.

13. The Fund's radium was held on the 31st December, 1937, as follows :—

	Amount of King's Fund radium held at 31st Dec., 1937. Mgms. (approx.)	Total amount of radium held by these Hospitals at 31st Dec., 1937, including King's Fund radium. Mgms. (approx.)
Hospitals with Medical Schools :—		
Charing Cross	250	250
Guy's	590	595
King's College	250	470
London	250	2,550
Middlesex	4,405	5,655
Royal Free	1,200	1,920
St. Mary's	145	300
St. Thomas's	145	490
University College	2,500	2,695
Westminster	3,250	6,885
Other Hospitals :—		
Chelsea (Women)	200	345
Croydon (General)	65	150
E. G. Anderson (Women)	145	145
*Hospital for Women	100	250
Marie Curie (Women)	1,490	1,940
Royal Cancer	1,000	7,200
Samaritan Free (Women)	100	340
*South London	150	150
* Also in Pool.		
Radium Pool	665	1,020

	Amount of King's Fund radium held at 31st Dec., 1937. Mgms. (approx.)	Total amount of radium held by these Hospitals at 31st Dec., 1937, including King's Fund radium. Mgms. (approx.)
Hospitals in Fund's Radium Pool :—		
Central London Throat...		
Dreadnought		
Golden Square		
Hampstead General		
Hospital for Epilepsy		
Hospital for Sick Children		
Hospital for Women		
Metropolitan		
National Temperance		200
Prince of Wales's		
Queen Mary's		
Royal Northern		
St. George's		
St. Paul's		
South London for Women		
West London		
Woolwich		
	16,900	33,550

For the Distribution Committee,

E. C. PERRY,
Chairman.

May 17, 1938.